

Nicolas-Janis House
(Janis-Ziegler House)
(Green Tree Tavern)
St. Genevieve
Saint Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1104

HABS
MO,
97-SAIGEN,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

W.T. Trueblood, District Officer,
1520 Chemical Building, St. Louis, MO

Eugene L. Pleitsch, Deputy District Officer,
1592 Arcade Building, St. Louis, MO

MULTIPLE
ADDENDUMS
FOLLOW

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DISTRICT OF MISSOURI (NO. 1.)

HABS
MO.

97- SAIGEN

5.

PROJECT NO. Mb/104

"Ziegler House"

This house located on South Main St., in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, was built in 1800 by Francois Janis and was used as a Tavern for the visitors to Ste. Genevieve. It was known as the "Greentree Tavern".

Francois Janis was the son of Nicholas Janis one of the first settlers who owned and operated a sugar mill on the Aux Vases.

The house was later purchased by Matthew Ziegler whose descendants have been in possession of the property for over 100 years.

This is a one story and attic over high basement. Rectangular plan surrounded by wide porch, part of which supports main roof. Peaked gables.

Information: Fair Play.

DW

6/3/37

An addendum to:
Nicolas Janis
(Janis Ziegler House)
(Green Tree Tavern)
244 Old St. Mary's Road
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1104

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to NICHOLAS JANIS HOUSE (Janis-Ziegler House) (Green Tree Tavern)

HABS No. MO-1104

Location: 244 Old St. Mary's Road, Ste. Genevieve, Ste. Genevieve County,
Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

Stands on the old road to New Bourbon, on the edge of the village, near the south fork of the Gabouri. The building was erected by Francois Janis in 1791 and some years later was converted into a hotel. Later it was purchased by Matthew Ziegler, some of whose descendants still occupy it. In 1806, the English traveler, Thomas Ashe, found accomodation here. "L...put up at an inn which had strong indications of comfort. I was by no means disappointed: the landlord, a lively Frenchman, looked after my horses and his wife made me a cup of coffee with as much perfection as ever I drank at the Palais Royale or at the foot of Pont Neuf." (Yealy, "Sainte Genevieve, p.105).

Nicholas Janis came to Ste. Genevieve from Kaskaskia in 1790. He was, according to Houck (vol. 1, p. 354), a member of one of the most ancient families of that ancient settlement. He was the father of Jean Baptiste Janis, who came to Ste. Genevieve in 1776, and also the father of Francois Janis, the builder of the Green Tree Tavern.

"The Ziegler house now occupied by the Misses Ziegler, was built by Francois Janis in 1794, used as a hotel until 1810, and purchased by the Ziegler family in 1833. Mr. Janis was great grandfather of the Misses Ziegler, and kept the boat landing. The woodwork is mahogany, the plastering a sort of cement. The shutters at the windows of black walnut. The three cornered flue (three fire places) wonderful." (Mrs. Ida M. Schaaf to van Ravenswaay, August 1937). One chimney supplies three fireplaces, one in the large bedroom and the other two as corner fireplaces in the two small bedrooms opening off the main bedroom."

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Rupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the ~~MO-1104~~ records for MO-1800.

Addendum to
Nicholas Janis House (Janis-Ziegler House)
(Green Tree Tavern)
244 Old St. Mary's Road, south of South
Gabouri Creek
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1104

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Addendum to
Nicolas Janis House
(Janis-Ziegler House)
(Green Tree Tavern)
244 Old St. Mary's Road
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1104

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NICHOLAS JANIS HOUSE (THE GREEN TREE TAVERN)

HABS
MO,
97-3AIGEN

Location: St. Mary's Road (just south of the intersection 5-
with S. Main Street), Ste. Genevieve, Ste.
Genevieve County, Missouri, 63670

USGS Ste. Genevieve Quadrangle, Universal
Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.759800.4207120

Present Owner: Norbert B. and Frances O. Donze, 78 N. Main St.,
Ste. Genevieve, MO. 63670

Present Use: Historic house museum

Significance: This house is a large example of vertical log
construction on a stone foundation (poteaux sur
sole). It preserves a plan typical of larger
French colonial houses which had a major central
room flanked by two or three smaller rooms to
either side. In spite of the few changes that
have been made to the house, its original form is
evident and it preserves the most unaltered
interior of any creole house in Ste. Genevieve, a
National Historic Landmark Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: c. 1790-91. The property was
acquired in 1789 by Nicholas Janis, who deeded it
with a house to his son Francois in 1796.
Dendrochronological analysis of five floor beams
in the house indicate that four were cut in 1790
and one in 1791. Two collars on the roof rafters
were dated to 1808, indicating that they were
added to strengthen the roof at that time, or that
the roof is a replacement of that date.
2. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description:
Part of Survey No. 352 in the town of Ste.
Genevieve, beginning at the northeast corner of a
lot conveyed to Andrew W. Roth (Sept. 30, 1927,
Book 47, page 400), then south 9 degrees west 185
feet to southeast corner of said Roth lot, then
north 89 degrees east 89 feet 8 inches to the
northwest corner of the property conveyed to
Edward B. Moreau (July 24, 1924, Book 97, page
539) south 79 degrees 50 seconds east 129 feet 2
inches to a point, north 29 degrees east 113 feet
2 inches to a point in the north line of Survey
352, north 61 degrees west 218 feet 6 inches to a
point then northwest following the present street
line to the point of beginning.

Chain of title:

- a. 1789, land granted to Nicholas Janis. Land Concessions, SGA 89.
 - b. April 20, 1786, indenture between Nicholas Janis and Francois Janis, his son, conveying this property to Francois. SGA 25.
 - c. January 21, 1833, division of the property of Francois Janis, Sr., died intestate, and series of quit claim deeds, settle the property on four heirs, Antoine Janis, Henry Janis, Felix Janis, and Emilie Lecompte. Deed book D, pages 368, 369, 371, 373.
 - d. April 20, 1833, deed from the above heirs to Mathias Ziegler. Deed book D, page 392.
 - e. October 7, 1851, deed by Barbara Ziegler, executrix of the estate of Mathias Ziegler, to Francis J. Ziegler. Deed book N, page 356.
 - f. September 14, 1900, by will of Francis J. Ziegler dated July 28, 1897, to Barbara, Blanche, Isabella, and Corinne Ziegler. Joseph C. Ziegler appointed executor. Deed book 55, page 377.
 - g. September 14, 1937, by will of Joseph C. Ziegler to Barbara and Corinne Ziegler, his sisters. Deed book 113, page 313.
 - h. June 30, 1938, by quit claim deed from Barbara and Corinne Ziegler to Josephine and Helen Ziegler, daughters of Joseph C. Ziegler. Deed book 114, page 1.
 - i. October 27, 1938, deed from Josephine Ziegler and Helen Ziegler to James B. Moranville and Annie P. Moranville, his wife. Deed book 114, page 120.
 - j. February 4, 1948, deed from the above to Ralph A. Grannemann and Laverne Grannemann, his wife. Deed book 127, page 454.
 - k. October 11, 1963, deed from the above to Frederick G. Foley and Edna L. Foley. Deed book 164, page 163.
 - l. November 16, 1976, deed from the above to the present owners. Deed book 242, page 210.
3. Original plans and construction: A contract for the construction of the stone wall across the front of the house, dated June 11, 1803, survives (SGA 25). The contract, with Baptiste Laroze dit Bontabac, was for a wall 100 feet long, 5 feet high, and two-and-one-half feet thick. There is clear physical evidence for a second triangular chimney and for the original location of the stairway, both shown in the restored floor plan. A continuous gallery around the house is also shown, though the evidence is not so strong.

4. Alterations and additions: The house has had few alterations. One chimney has been modified and the attic stairway moved, as noted above. The fireplace in the center room is a later addition, probably of the mid-nineteenth century. It seems likely that the two rooms at the northwest end of the house were added, interrupting the continuous gallery around the house at that point. The very fine mantelpieces in the house are of the Federal style, and it seems unlikely therefore that they would have been part of the original construction of c. 1790-91. If the roof was changed c. 1808 as indicated by the tree ring dating of the rafter collars, this could be the date when the second triangular chimney was removed to the level of the cellar and when the mantels were installed. This would make them an early addition during the ownership of Francois Janis.

B. Historical Context:

Ste. Genevieve was one of the most important French Colonial settlements in the mid-Mississippi valley, and the one that best preserves the architecture of that period. The house is located on the principal road in the early settlement, a road that ran south to the old village of Ste. Genevieve and Kaskaskia beyond that, and north to the new village of Ste. Genevieve. Nicholas Janis was one of a small group of wealthy individuals who led the settlement of the new town, moving up from Kaskaskia. In the earliest years of the nineteenth century, Francois Janis began operating The Green Tree Tavern in this house. A sign board from the tavern is preserved in the Ste. Genevieve Museum. The house is now open to the public as an historic house museum.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a large example of vertical log construction on a stone foundation, what the French called "poteaux sur sole." Its plan, general form, and detail are characteristic of creole architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One story on an elevated cellar with a high attic, 73-1/2' across the front by 39'-9" deep.

2. Foundations: Random cut stone, 2' thick, carried 4' to 5' above grade.
3. Walls: Vertical, hewn, white oak logs, mortised into a sill, infilled with bouzillage, plastered or sheathed with horizontal clapboards.
4. Structural system, framing: Vertical log structure on a sill carrying a plate, hewn logs closely spaced, floor beams mortised into the sill and the plate, vertical sawn, pine roof rafters with collar beams spaced about 2' on center.
5. Porches: A typical French colonial gallery on three sides of the house, probably originally continued around the entire house. Porch posts of red cedar. Secondary rafters extend over the gallery giving the characteristic double pitch to the roof.
6. Chimneys: An unusual chimney, with a stone foundation and brick upper construction, triangular in plan, carries three fireplaces. The foundation for a similar chimney that may have carried two fireplaces, survives in the cellar. Brick chimneys serve the fireplaces added later.
7. Openings: Principal entrances at the center of both long sides open into the largest room at the center of the house. Secondary entrances that open into rooms at the northwest end of the house may have been added slightly later when that part of the plan was altered. A separate entrance under the gallery leads into the cellar.
 - a. Doorways and doors: An interesting batten door is preserved at the cellar entrance. Doorways on the first floor have small transoms. Some panelled doors survive, others have been replaced by later doors with large lights.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows with later sash. Early solid panel shutters survive with iron hinges. An early, small paned, cellar window, not in place, is preserved in the cellar.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Metal covering over earlier wood shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: No eave projection, boxed in

plate at eave line of the porch.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: One of the best preserved plans of the largest house type used in French colonial Ste. Genevieve, with a large central room of mixed use flanked by three smaller rooms to one side probably two, originally, on the other side. The smaller rooms were presumably bedrooms, and are finished as such today. The northwest room is furnished as a kitchen. It is a plan type known in northwestern France.
- b. Cellar: Unfinished cellar space is divided by a wooden partition into two rooms. The partition is the only example observed in Ste. Genevieve of the characteristic French horizontal hewn log construction with the horizontals fitted into vertically slotted posts.
- c. Attic: Simple open space, floored but otherwise unfinished.

2. Stairways: The present boxed stairway is an early alteration. The location of the original stairway is clearly indicated in the existing framing.

3. Flooring: 1" tongue and grooved flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls. Exposed ceiling beams, 4" x 9-3/4", with beaded edges.

5. Openings: Doorways and doors: Earliest doorways and doors of walnut with thin panelled doors.

6. Hardware: Early hardware survives on doors and shutters, including box locks and iron strap hinges.

7. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: Three very fine Walnut mantels are preserved on fireplaces in the house. They are in a Federal style which suggests that they are early additions to the house.

b. Lighting and plumbing are modern additions.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: The house faces northeast on St. Mary's Road. The original settlement of Ste. Genevieve was to the south of the present one, on the Mississippi River. It was abandoned beginning in the 1780s, and a new village built on rising ground between the two branches of the Gaboury Creek. The South Gaboury Creek flows parallel to St. Mary's Road on the opposite side from the Janis house. The main floor of the house is raised just high enough above the stream bed so that it has never been flooded. Since flooding was a major reason for moving from the old village to this site, this suggests that flood levels had been carefully observed along this stream.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Early Views: Early photographs of the house, c. 1900-1920, are preserved in the Vincent J. Dunker Collection, owned by Mrs. Elmer L. Donze, 15 South Fourth Street, Ste. Genevieve, copy negatives owned by the University of Missouri-Columbia Ste. Genevieve Project.
- B. Bibliography:
1. Primary and unpublished sources: Deed records in the Ste. Genevieve County Clerk's Office, County Courthouse. Other records in the Ste. Genevieve Archives (SGA), collected on microfilm, Western Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of Missouri-Columbia.
 2. Secondary and published sources:

Ekberg, Carl J., Colonial Ste. Genevieve, An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier (Gerald, Missouri: The Patrice Press, 1985).

Franzwa, Gregory M., The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve (St. Louis: The Patrice Press, 1967).

Peterson, Charles E., "Early Ste. Genevieve and its Architecture," The Missouri Historical Review, XXXV:2 (January 1941), pp. 207-232.

Porterfield, Neil H. "Ste. Genevieve, Missouri," in John Francis McDermott, editor, Frenchmen and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969), pp. 141-177.

Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration, Missouri, A Guide to the "Show Me" State (Missouri State Highway Department, 1941).

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) team of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, under the direction of Historical Architect Thomas G. Keohan. Documentation was carried out during the summer of 1985 at the HABS field office in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, by project supervisor Osmund Overby (University of Missouri-Columbia), project architects James Q. Marsh (Hemet, California), William D. Cesaletti (Keaau, Hawaii), and Terance A. Gruenhagen (North Dakota State University), and project historian Claudia A. Barbero (University of Missouri-Columbia).

Prepared by: Osmund Overby
Professor of Art History
University of Missouri-Columbia
January 17, 1987

ADDENDUM TO
NICOLAS JANIS HOUSE
(JANIS-ZIEGLER HOUSE)
(GREEN TREE TAVERN)
244 Old Saint Mary's Road
Ste. Genevieve
Ste. Genevieve County
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013